



WSF Long-Range Planning and Growth Projections

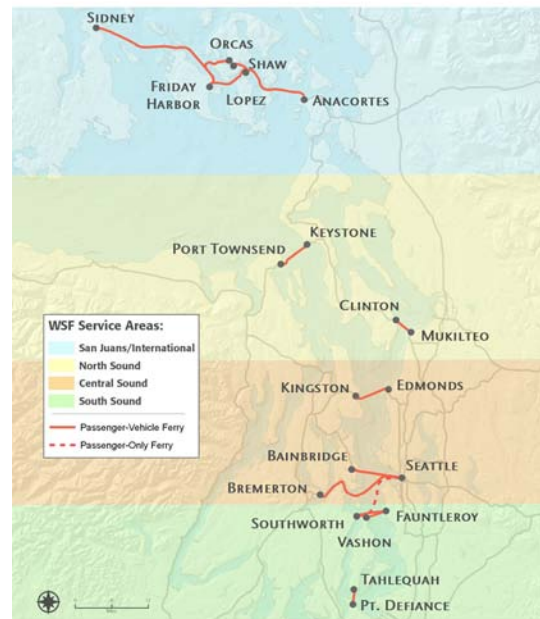
What do ridership projections take into account?

WSF's projections of future ridership are based on a combination of a regional computer model developed by the Puget Sound Regional Council and population data supplied by the Office of Financial Management (OFM) for outlying counties. It includes origin and destination information for all cross-Sound trips, based on population and employment projections.

Projections about commuters' decisions also take into account a variety of factors including vessel capacities, driving times and fares. At the request of Kitsap County, ridership forecasts are being updated to reflect an increase in Kitsap County's projected population.

Systemwide Growth Expectations

- WSF's "baseline" growth projections rely on certain assumptions about service and fares:
 - Service is assumed to be the same as today's, except for the introduction of replacement vessels already purchased.
 - Fares are assumed to continue increasing 5% per year through 2009, with annual increases to match inflation thereafter.
- Given those assumptions, significant growth in ferry ridership is projected through 2030.
 - Westbound vehicle traffic during the evening commute period is projected to rise 24% (1,629 additional vehicles) by 2030.
 - Westbound total ridership during the evening commute period is projected to rise 64% (11,015 additional passengers) by 2030.
- Growth in ridership will require adding four vessels to the WSF fleet in the 2015-2018 time period. This is in addition to five vessels currently being built as replacement vessels.



Growth in the South and Central Sound (Kitsap County)

- Growth on the South and Central Sound routes is projected to be especially high, as a result of population and economic growth in Kitsap County.
- Total peak-period westbound traffic on South Sound routes is projected to rise 41% for vehicles and 62% for total riders, by 2030.
- Central Sound westbound routes are expected to rise 23% for vehicles and 64% for total riders by 2030.
- By 2030, Seattle-Bainbridge Island total ridership is expected to grow 71% and the number of vehicles on the route is expected to grow by 29%.